

App. No. 10/700,290
Office Action Dated July 8, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 8 are hereby amended. Claims 2 and 9-17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

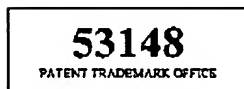
Amendment of claim 1 is supported by the subject matter of claim 2. Claim 8 is amended to correct dependency.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Tanaka (US 5,236,894). Claim 1 includes the allowed subject matter of claim 2, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to claim 1.

Claims 3-7 were rejected as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of the Examiner's remarks. Claims 3-7 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they depend. Therefore, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Dated: January 6, 2006



DPM:mfe

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas P. Mueller', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller
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